MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 21, 1925.

The sixth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1925 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Thursday, May 21, 1925.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Medary,
Mr. Delano
Mr. Taft,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held March 27, 1925, were approved.

2. FORT VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, MEMORIAL COIN: The Director of the Mint submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts models received by him for the proposed 50-cent piece, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Fort Vancouver, by the Hudson Bay Company, State of Washington. One of the models showed a stockade with landscape setting and the other the head of Dr. John McLoughlin.

The Commission disapproved the models. Mr. Taft thought the composition interesting and that it indicated what those interested in the coin intended to convey, but that it required a good artist to produce satisfactory results. The Commission decided that the work should be placed in the hands of a competent medalist. Attention was called in particular to the importance of having an experienced medalist treat the

[redacted] the landscape proposed in the relief. The Commission recommended that the work of making satisfactory models be placed in the hands of Mr. Chester Beach, Sculptor, of New York City. (Exhibit A).

3. CALIFORNIA DIAMOND JUBILEE COIN: Under date of May 8, 1925, the Director of the Mint submitted a sketch for the proposed design for a fifty-cent piece to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the admission of the State of California into the Union. For one side of the coin a gold digger was suggested and for the other a "California" bear. The Commission thought these symbols would be possible if they were interestingly executed, but on the other hand there might be something which would be far more interesting and with a bigger sense of what California really is. The work indicated that the artist has not had the proper experience to do a successful coin. The bear was designed entirely too short and the whole sketch seemed amateurish.

The Commission recommended that the work be placed in the hands of Mr. Robert I. Aitken, Sculptor, of New York City. (Exhibit B).

4. NEW OFFICE BUILDING, NEW YORK AVENUE, FIFTEENTH & G STREETS: Under date of March 11, 1925, the Commission received the following letter from Mr. Charles A. Coolidge, Architect, of Boston, submitting designs for a new office building at the corner of New York Avenue, Fifteenth & G Streets:

> "I am taking the liberty to address you in regard to the design for a new bank and office building at the corner of New York Avenue, 15th and G Streets.
>
> My clients are desirous of erecting a monumental building which will be a credit to the city of Washington; and I am anxious so far as is in my power to design and construct a most beautiful building.
>
> I find, however, under the existing laws, with the height of story required for a banking room, that I am not able to design a

building which has a pleasant relation between the base, main ashlar and crowning member. It seems to me that it must be apparent to all of you that this pleasant relation, with the building limited to the present height, is an extremely difficult one to attain.

I am sending you at this time three different designs for the proposed building. The first shows the building as limited in height by the present law. The second shows how the building would appear if an additional story were added, thus making the crowning member higher, and improving the general proportions. I have also shown in this design a large setback above the roof and beyond a structure rising similar to that allowed at present in New York. This would be a benefit to the building and an attractive feature in the immediate neighborhood. The third design is similar to the second except that the structure above the roof is higher. If this design were permitted my clients would be interested to have this space occupied by some prominent club. Proper treatment could be arranged for a roof garden which would be available for use during the pleasant months of the year. This design is the one which I think is the best of the three.

The relation of this unique site to this district of Washington, and the value to the district of a monumental development of the highest type are such that I trust the commission will feel willing to give the matter most careful consideration.

Hoping that the commission will give me a reply at the earliest date convenient for them, I remain,

Most respectfully yours,

Charles A. Coolidge".

The Secretary stated that the Zoning Commission advised that the height limit for buildings along Fifteenth Street north of G Street to New York Avenue is 110 feet, whereas south of G Street to Pennsylvania Avenue it is 85 feet. This was done so that the buildings on Fifteenth Street would not over-tower the Treasury Department building. On April 23, 1925, Mr. Lewis B. Abbott, of Mr. Coolidge's office, consulted Major Wheeler of the Zoning Commission, who advised that the erection of a building higher than 110 feet on the square in question would require an Act of Congress (Exhibit C).

The Commission inspected the designs. The Commission felt that it would be unwise to permit the erection of a building higher than 85 feet in proximity to the Treasury Department building. Attention was called to the

fact that the Treasury Annex is 85 feet high, and it was thought that the buildings in this vicinity should be of uniform height, being one of the most prominent parts of the city. The matter was held for further consideration at the next meeting.

5. BAND STAND, POTOMAC PARK: Mr. F. H. Brooke, Architect, of this city, submitted a revised design for a marble band stand, to be erected in Potomac Park as the District of Columbia War Memorial. Mr. Brooke advised that he had made the design in consultation with Mr. Delano.

Mr. Delano said that the new design is satisfactory to him and that he regarded it much better than the former one submitted by Mr. Brooke. It provides for a band stand which will be a little higher to the top of the dome than the width, but lower than the surrounding trees. It will be 40 feet in diameter, large enough to accommodate the Marine Band. Mr. Taft said he liked the new design much better than the old one. Attention was called to the fact that the roof should be water proof and the question was raised whether or not metal should be used. Mr. Ayres objected to using a metal roof on a marble structure. Criticism was made of the dormer windows, as to making them vertical instead of horizontal or even omitting them, but it was concluded that this was a matter of detail which could be adjusted when the time comes to build the structure. Mr. Moore stated that no funds for it are available at the present time.

The design was approved with the understanding that the exact location is to be subject to the result of a restudy of the park area and roadways in the location; and that, if any serious changes are contemplated in either design or material on account of cost, or for any other reason, the design is to be resubmitted to the Commission (Exhibit D).

6. WORLD WAR MEMORIALS IN EUROPE: The Secretary read a letter sent to the Commission under date of March 23, 1925, by The American Battle Monuments Commission, advising as to the appointment of Dr. Paul P. Cret, Architect, to make a preliminary survey of sites proposed for World War Memorials in Europe, as follows:

> "With reference to your letter of January 17, 1925, to Senator Reed concerning the employment of Dr. Paul P. Cret as architect of the American Battle Monuments Commission, this question was considered at the meeting of the Commission on March 17th.
>
> Dr. Cret is to be engaged to go to Europe this summer for the Commission to make a preliminary survey of each place selected for a Commission memorial. He will be asked to cover by his report the following: the most desirable site in the locality for the memorial; the general type and character of memorial suitable for the site, with rough drawings; recommendations concerning the obtaining of detailed designs; and such other recommendations as he thinks advisable to make.
>
> Dr. Cret was not made supervisor of designs and construction of the Commission as suggested by your letter, but it is expected that, if his work during the summer is satisfactory, he will be asked to accept such a position later on.
>
> When Dr. Cret's recommendations are received the Commission will be glad to transmit them to your Commission for advice and suggestions".

Mr. Medary advised that he had talked with Prof. Cret on the subject, that he had gone to France and is expected back the middle of August. Prof. Cret then hopes to receive the necessary authority to take part in the meetings of the American Battle Monuments Commission to determine as to designers for different memorials.

The Commission were gratified in the selection of Prof. Cret for this work, and felt that it was proceeding satisfactorily.

7. PORTO RICO WORLD WAR MEMORIAL: Under date of March 14, 1925, the following letter was received, by reference from the War Department, from Mr. Louis F. C. Coll, President of the Porto Rico War Veterans' Association, San Juan, Porto Rico, asking advice with reference to a World War Memorial

for Porto Rico:

San Juan, P. R.,
March 14, 1925.

"War Veteran Bureau,
Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

I am launching a project in Porto Rico for the erecting of a monument to the memory of the soldiers who were born on this island and lost their lives in France carrying the American uniform.

So far nothing has been done in Porto Rico to this effect. For quite sometime I have been writing on the press and making a personal campaign in favor of this wonderful idea.

However, it seems to me, that this patriotic idea is going to materialize as the Porto Rico Legislature is going to vote a project of $15,000 for this purpose.

It is my wish that this statue be bought in the U. S.A., and I wish to request of you to kindly communicate with some of the various merchants or sculptors that have experience in this kind of work. I also beg of you to have them get in touch with the writer.

Trusting that you will do this, and thanking you for it, I am,

Yours most respectfully,
Louis F. Cuchi Coll,
President, Porto Rican War Veterans' Association".

Mr. Moore stated that recently he received a letter from the Governor of Porto Rico asking advice with reference to a landscape plan for the city and recommended Mr. Parsons of Chicago.

The Commission recommended that Mr. Coll consult Mr. Parsons as to the proposed war memorial. (Exhibit E).

8. SIXTEENTH STREET EXTENSION: Under date of May 20, 1925, Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, submitted the following letter with a plan for a reservation to be created in connection with the proposed extension of Sixteenth Street, from Alaska Avenue to Kalmia Road:

"I inclose herewith a map showing a suggestion made by the Highway Commission of the District for the treatment of the heights of 16th Street.

The views of the Commission of Fine Arts are requested as to this particular plan and also as to the adequacy of the area covered by this plan and also as to the plan itself.

The main feature now under consideration by this Office is as to the area that should be condemned by the District for the extension of 16th Street north of Alaska Avenue and also as to the area that should be acquired for park purposes, in order to have at least sufficient land for any essential treatment of this area. The Office up to this time has not made a study of the requirements, but is making a tentative study at this time. The preliminary examination of the road layout herewith in connection with the ground indicates that the reverse curves on the north branch will be inadvisable and also that it is doubtful if the southern branch should be built on account of the destruction that would be necessary in the natural topography."

The Secretary stated that the proposed extension of Sixteenth Street is being made in accordance with a provision of the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1926, as follows:

"For grading, including the necessary culverts, drains and retaining wall; northwest, 16th Street to Kalmia Road, $40,500.

Major J. C. Mehaffey, and Mr. George Clark, of Colonel Sherrill's office, were present and explained the plan, in the absence of Col. Sherrill, who found it impossible to be present.

The matter was called to the particular attention of Mr. Greenleaf, who stated that the proposed reservation is to be at the place heretofore recommended by the Commission for the Roosevelt Memorial, and it is a place for a reservation, where doubtless at some future time a fine monument will be erected. The region beyond Kalmia Road to the District Line should be restudied in detail with a view to the creation of a great entrance to the city, a "Northern Portal". Mr. Greenleaf prepared a rough sketch showing the Northern Portal with connecting roadways to Baltimore, Rockville and Gettysburg, Rock Creek Park and the Anacostia Park. Mr. Greenleaf said the elevation of this proposed reservation is about 350 feet, the highest point of land along Sixteenth Street, and the region to the north of the proposed reservation has an elevation of about 250 feet.

The Commission concurred in the recommendation of Mr. Greenleaf that

the area in question be maintained for the proposed reservation, and recommended that additional land adjacent to the reservation and Alaska Avenue be acquired, so as to protect the reservation from building encroachments. The Commission also recommended that a restudy be made of the region north of Kalmia Road to the District Line, with a view to the creation of a "Northern Portal" to the city. (Exhibit F).

Mr. Moore advised that Mr. J. G. Langdon, draftsman for the Park Commission of 1901 and for several years connected with the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission, had been appointed Landscape Architect for the National Capital Park Commission.

9. LANDS WEST OF TUNLAW ROAD: On March 26th Lieut. Col. Sherrill submitted a letter with sketch, in which he advised that the National Capital Park Commission proposes the purchase of lands lying west of Tunlaw Road, as part of the proposed connecting parkway between Rock Creek Parkway and the Glover Parkway, and in accordance with the Act creating that Commission requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the project. The Commission favored the purchase. (Exhibit G).

10. PROPOSED PARKWAY CONNECTING THE NORMENT TRACT AT 37th STREET WITH THE ROCK CREEK AND POTOMAC PARKWAY: Under date of May 21, 1925, Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, submitted the following letter with maps as to a proposed parkway to connect the Norment Tract at 37th Street with the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway:

> "I inclose herewith maps of three variations of the proposed parkway connecting the Norment Tract at 37th Street with the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The viewsof the Commission of Fine Arts are requested in reference to the desirable procedure in this connection.
>
> The condition of building developments in that area made the purchase of the Norment Tract absolutely essential as the only

possible route, but due to the fact that building is not taking place in this area there are several possible alternatives."

Mr. George Clark, of Colonel Sherrill's office, explained the maps.

Mr. Clark stated that in laying out the proposed parkway to connect the Norment Tract at 37th Street with the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, the National Capital Park Commission has in view three variations, which are shown on the map.

Mr. Clark stated that the most desirable route would be the road indicated in red on the accompanying map with the purchase by the Park Commission of the land lying between T and U Streets and west of the Old Elverson Estate as shown in green on the accompanying map.

The Commissioners appealed to the owners to sell to the United States the land between the proposed line of T and U Streets, and to abandon the proposed extension of T Street east of the line of Observatory Street. This would preserve this tributary of Rock Creek, and would give the owners opportunity to construct houses facing the proposed park, the park driveway passing down through this valley to the north of T Street and through the Bliss Estate and connecting on to Lovers' Lane.

One other proposition the Park Commission made to the owners of this land is shown on the map; briefly, that the United States would purchase that portion of the low ground lying east of Wisconsin Avenue and north of T Street leaving enough in private ownership for them to develop their Wisconsin Avenue frontage and with sufficient depth to construct dwellings overlooking the park facing eastward. This proposition made it possible for the owners of these parcels to retain the most valuable portions of the land in question, and at the same time would permit the Park Commission to acquire enough of the valley to protect the water shed.

Very little progress having been made on either of these propositions, the Commission has about definitely decided to follow the route indicated on the map leading to the north eastward and joining on to W Street south of the Observatory Circle.

The National Capital Park Commission has held the possibility of connecting the Glover and Archbold Parkway with the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway by either of the methods shown on the drawing submitted in abeyance until it had communicated with Mr. Robert Woods Bliss, who has purchased the Elverson Estate, with the hope that he might donate sufficient land for a park road as shown herewith, with the assurance that this tributary would be properly protected. The Commission endorsed the project and felt it was being developed very satisfactorily by the National Capital Park Commission (Exhibit H)

11. NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART: Under date of March 6, 1925, Lieut.Col. C. O. Sherrill submitted a letter with copy of correspondence which he has had with Dr. Walcott, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, concerning the proposed location of the National Gallery of Art, which indicated that Dr. Walcott desires to erect the National Gallery of Art across Ninth Street. Colonel Sherrill advised that the Report of the Public Buildings Commission of 1917, outlining a plan for future public buildings in Washington, which the Commission of Fine Arts approved, provided for the extension of Ninth Street through the Mall, wherefore Colonel Sherrill asked whether the Commission would sustain the Public Buildings Report. Dr. Walcott referred to a photographic print, showing present and proposed buildings for the Smithsonian Institution, which indicated that Dr. Walcott desires to erect the National Gallery of Art across Ninth Street and also a proposed National Museum of Engineering and Industry.

The Commission felt it very important that Ninth Street extend across

the Mall to meet traffic requirements and adhered to the Public Buildings Report of 1917. The Commission also noted from a Plan of the Mall that the Senate Park Commission of 1901 contemplated a sub-cross axis in the locality adjoining Ninth Street. Mr. Medary said that it was vital to the proper future development of the Smithsonian Institution that Dr. Walcott have a study made of the Smithsonian Group, having in view the location of the National Gallery of Art in its relation to present and proposed buildings, as the Commission has heretofore recommended.

12. SUCCESSOR TO MR. AYRES: Mr. Ayres stated that his four year term of service expired in February of this year and asked that the Commission consider the selection of a successor. Mr. Ben. Morris, architect, of New York, was suggested.

13. INSPECTION TRIP TO COLUMBIA HEIGHTS: At the request of Mr. W. I. Swanton, President of the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association, the Commission inspected several places from Florida Avenue north to Park Road and from Sixteenth Street east to Georgia Avenue, where there has been development regardless of the aesthetic appearance of the city. The Commission noted in particular cheap stores built to the curb line, along Fourteenth Street, cheap row houses, narrow streets, and the devastation in the Piney Branch section. The Commission protested against the destructive methods used which mar the beauty of the city, and determined to cooperate with the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association in their efforts to improve that section of the city. (Exhibit I).

14. HOWARD UNIVERSITY GROUNDS: President J. Stanley Durkee, of Howard University, having requested the advice of the Commission as to the treatment of the grounds of Howard University alongside the reservoir, the Commission visited the University and inspected the grounds in company with Dr. Durkee, and Dr. E. J. Scott, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Commission noted the beginning that had been made in the erection of the new Armory-Gymnasium building. Dr. Durkee very much regretted the fact that they had been deprived of a small section of land occupied by a caretaker's house of the Filtration Plant, immediately to the north of their new building. It was suggested that Dr. Durkee introduce a special bill in Congress to secure this tract.

The question of terrace treatment was brought to the particular attention of Mr. Greenleaf, who suggested, as he had done at a former meeting of the Commission, a retaining wall at the north-east corner of the dining hall building; whereupon a grass terrace walk should be constructed with double rows of elms. Dr. Scott said an appropriation of only $12,500 had been made for landscape development. The Commission advised that the retaining wall was necessary to help protect the foundations of the new buildings and that while it would be high in the vicinity of the Gymnasium and the Dining Hall buildings, the wall would be lower as it extended southward along the reservoir front, until it would lose itself in the university grounds. Mr. Greenleaf offered to make a tentative sketch of the proposed terrace on the receipt of a contour map of the university grounds, which the authorities agreed to furnish. The sketch is to form the basis of a landscape plan that will be submitted by Howard University to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

C O P Y

May 22, 1925.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 21, 1925, considered the models submitted for a souvenir fifty-cent piece, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Fort Vancouver by the Hudson Bay Company, State of Washington.

The Commission disapproved the models. The composition of the design is interesting, but it is such as will require the work of an experienced medalist to assure satisfactory results. The stockade is the most significant thing in the design and introduces landscape into the relief, which even the most accomplished medalists hesitate to undertake. The lettering of the models should be improved; the title would seem to be The Hudson Bay Company and not Hudson's Bay Company.

The Commission recommend that the work of making a satisfactory design and models for the Fort Vancouver souvenir coin be placed in the hands of Mr. Chester Beach, Sculptor, 207 East 17th Street, New York City, one of the most prominent sculptors and medalists of this country.

The models are herewith returned.

Very respectfully, yours,

H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer

Hon. R. J. Grant,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

C O P Y

May 22, 1925.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, considered the design, submitted by you with your letter of May 8th, for the proposed souvenir half dollar to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the admission of the State of California into the Union.

The Commission disapproved the sketch submitted. The figures of the design are not in good proportion, and the sketch would indicate that the designer has not had experience in medalic art. The symbols used would be acceptable if they were interestingly executed, but on the other hand, there might be something which would be far more interesting and with a bigger sense of what California really is.

The Commission recommend that the work of making a satisfactory design and models for the California souvenir coin be placed in the hands of Mr. Robert I. Aitken, 154 West 55th Street, New York City. Mr. Aitken is a native of California and one of the eminent men in his profession in this country.

The design which you submitted and a rough sketch, showing suggested changes in the design, are inclosed.

Very respectfully, yours,

H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. R. J. Grant,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B.

April 20-24, 1956.

I went to the office of the Fine Arts Commission and obtained the drawings of the New York Avenue building. Mr. Bassett made an appointment for me with Maj. Wheeler, the head officer of the District Commissioners, and Mr. Hagen, Mr. Wolff, and I went down to see him.

We had four elevations: one of the building 110' high to the top of the cornice; one 130' high to the top of cornice and a roof house 20' high; another 132' high with roof house 40'; and one which you saw on Thursday, 110' to top of cornice and roof house about 20' high.

Maj. Wheeler stated that the 110' limit applied to the entire block as the limit of human habitation, and he was not in favor of changing, and that there was a feeling among certain people that 110' was too high for a building in that location, and should it become known that such a building was contemplated there might be opposition. We thought that Mr. Delano might be opposed to a building even 110' high (x).

He suggested that we should say very little about the building until such time as the application for permit should be made, in order that if there were opposition it might not be informed what was contemplated. He suggested that we take up the plans with the District Commissioners.

Should the District Commissioners and the Fine Arts Commission permit the roof structure to be built it could not be used for office purposes without a special Act of Congress. An Act of Congress has recently been granted in the case of a hotel. If it seems worth while to take the matter up with Congress, this could not be done before December. He suggested that if we decided to propose the roof house that we should keep within a height of about 130' which would allow a two story roof house.

(x) (There is a Mr. Delano who is a member of the Fine Arts Commission, and Wheeler was not sure whether he is the same Mr. Delano who is so actively opposed to high buildings in that section of the city.)

Exhibit C.

C O P Y

May 22, 1925.

Dear Mr. Brooke:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 21, 1925, approved the revised design (marked X), which you submitted, for a bandstand as the proposed District of Columbia War Memorial. The exact location is to be subject to the result of a restudy of the park area and roadways in the locality, as was stated in this Commission's letter of April 25th. If any serious changes are contemplated in either design or material on account of cost, or for any other reason, the design is to be resubmitted to the Commission.

The design is herewith returned to you.

Very truly yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. F. H. Brooke, Architect,
1218 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D.

C O P Y

May 26, 1925.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of March 14th, addressed to the War Veterans Bureau, of this city, requesting advice with regard to a proposed World War Memorial for Porto Rico, was referred to the Commission of Fine Arts and received consideration at their meeting on May 21, 1925.

Recently the Governor of Porto Rico informed me of his desire to secure a landscape plan for the city, and I suggested that he consult Mr. Wm. B. Parsons, of Bennett & Parsons, 1800 Railway Exchange Building, Chicago, Illinois. The Commission recommend that you consult Mr. Parsons with reference to your memorial.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Louis F. Cuchi Coll, President,
Porto Rico War Veterans' Association,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

EXHIBIT E.

C O P Y

May 22, 1925.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 21, 1925, gave consideration to your letter of May 20th, with which you submitted a map made by the Highway Commission of The District of Columbia for the treatment of Sixteenth Street Heights.

The Commission approve the design, with the suggestion that, in the acquirement of the land for the proposed reservation on Sixteenth Street Heights, the land in the sections marked "1" on the map be secured, and if possible also the land in the section marked "2", being the land extending from the southeastern part of the proposed reservation to Alaska Avenue. This is thought very necessary to protect the reservation and driveway from building encroachments.

In this connection the Commission of Fine Arts regard it of vital importance that a study be made at this time of the area between Kalmia Road and the District Line, with a view to providing a great entrance to the city at that point, where it will connect with roads to Baltimore, Rockville and Gettysburg, and with the Anacostia section and Rock Creek Park. The Commission have in mind a Northern Portal, similar to the Piazza del Popolo in Rome. A sketch suggesting the proposed treatment of this entrance, made by Mr. James L. Greenleaf, Landscape Architect member of the Commission, is attached hereto. An entrance such as this at Sixteenth Street Heights will provide a most needed improvement for the National Capital.

Yours very truly,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT F.

C O P Y

May 25, 1925.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of March 26th, asking an expression of opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the selection of lands lying west of Tunlaw Road, as part of a proposed connecting parkway between Rock Creek Parkway and the Glover Parkway, was given attention by the Commission at their meetings on March 27th and May 21st, 1925.

The Commission of Fine Arts favor the purchase of the lands in question by the National Capital Park Commission for the purpose of the proposed parkway, as above indicated.

Yours very truly,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. J. O. Sherrill, Director,

Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G.

C O P Y

May 28, 1925.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 21, examined the map showing three variations of the proposed parkway connecting the Norment Tract at 37th Street with the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. On discussing the matter with the representatives of your office, the Commission was convinced that the subject was being handled in a most satisfactory manner.

The Commission understand that the project is being dealt with along the lines of obtaining the best possible connection, subject to the possibilities of acquiring lands and rights of way. The connection itself is of first importance, and from the explanations, the Commission was satisfied that the National Capital Park Commission would secure that connection in the best practicable manner.

By order of the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H.

C O P Y

May 25, 1925.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on May 21, 1925, made a trip of inspection through Columbia Heights, with representatives of your Association, and noted places which you pointed out where there has been development without regard to the aesthetic appearance of the city. The Commission noted in particular cheap looking corner stores which detract from an otherwise good residential section; also stores which have been built out from the front of residences to the curb line, which are not only unsightly but block the vista from other residences in the same square. The Commission deplore such building operations, and feel that the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association is justified in putting forth every effort to prevent further building of that character.

The Commission noted also the devastation that is being permitted in the Piney Branch section. For some years the acquisition of the locality for purposes of the Piney Branch Parkway has been recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts, and the matter has received the consideration of Congress. Recently this Commission recommended to the National Capital Park Commission that the Piney Branch section be acquired for park and parkway development.

The Commission recommend that Park Road be widened into a parkway, which would connect eastern and western parts of the city and serve as a direct approach to Rock Creek Park.

The Commission will be pleased to cooperate with the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association in their efforts to help preserve the beauty of the National Capital.

Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. W.I. Swanton, President,
Columbia Heights Citizens' Association,
1464 Belmont Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT I.